

Resumen de gramática

Grammar Terms

Adjectives describe nouns: *a red car*.

Adverbs usually describe verbs; they tell when, where, or how an action happens: *He read it quickly*. Adverbs can also describe adjectives or other adverbs: *very tall, quite well*.

Articles are words in Spanish that can tell you whether a noun is masculine, feminine, singular, or plural. In English, the articles are *the, a, and an*.

Commands are verb forms that tell people to do something: *Study!, Work!*

Comparatives compare people or things.

Conjugations are verb forms that add endings to the stem in order to tell who the subject is and what tense is being used: *escribo, escribiste*.

Conjunctions join words or groups of words. The most common ones are *and, but, and or*.

Direct objects are nouns or pronouns that receive the action of a verb: *I read the book. I read it*.

Future tense is used to talk about actions in the future and to express what will happen: *Tomorrow we will begin working*.

Gender in Spanish tells you whether a noun, pronoun, or article is masculine or feminine.

Imperfect tense is used to talk about actions that happened repeatedly in the past; to describe people, places, and situations in the past; to talk about a past action or situation

where no beginning or end is specified; and to describe an ongoing action in the past. The imperfect tense may also be used to tell what time it was or to describe weather in the past and to describe the past physical, mental, and emotional states of a person or thing.

Imperfect progressive tense is used to describe something that was taking place over a period of time in the past: *He was skiing when he broke his leg*.

Indirect objects are nouns or pronouns that tell you to whom / what or for whom / what something is done: *I gave him the book*.

Infinitives are the basic forms of verbs. In English, infinitives have the word "to" in front of them: *to walk*.

Interrogatives are words that ask questions: *What is that? Who are you?*

Nouns name people, places, or things: *students, Mexico City, books*.

Number tells you if a noun, pronoun, article, or verb is singular or plural.

Prepositions show relationship between their objects and another word in the sentence: *He is in the classroom*.

Present tense is used to talk about actions that always take place, or that are happening now: *I always take the bus; I study Spanish*.

Present perfect tense is used to say what a person had done: *We have seen the new movie*.

Present progressive tense is used to emphasize that an action is happening *right now*: *I am doing my homework; he is finishing dinner*.

Preterite tense is used to talk about actions that were completed in the past: *I took the train yesterday; I studied for the test*.

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns: *She is my friend*.

Reflexive verbs are used to say that people do something to or for themselves: *I wash my hair*. Other reflexive verbs often describe a change in mental, emotional, or physical state, and can express the idea that someone "gets" or "becomes": *They became angry*.

Subjects are the nouns or pronouns that perform the action in a sentence: *John sings*.

Subjunctive mood is used to say that one person influences the actions of another: *I recommend that you speak with your doctor; it is important that she have good manners*. It is also used after verb and expressions that indicate doubt or uncertainty: *It's possible that there's enough food*.

Superlatives describe which things have the most or least of a given quality: *She is the best student*.

Verbs show action or link the subject with a word or words in the predicate (what the subject does or is): *Ana writes; Ana is my sister*.

Nouns, Number, and Gender

Nouns refer to people, animals, places, things, and ideas. Nouns are singular or plural. In Spanish, nouns have gender, which means that they are either masculine or feminine.

Singular Nouns	
Masculine	Feminine
libro	carpeta
pupitre	casa
profesor	noche
lápiz	ciudad

Plural Nouns	
Masculine	Feminine
libros	carpetas
pupitres	casas
profesores	noches
lápices	ciudades

Definite Articles

El, la, los, and las are definite articles and are the equivalent of "the" in English. *El* is used with masculine singular nouns; *los* with masculine plural nouns. *La* is used with feminine singular nouns; *las* with feminine plural nouns. When you use the words *a* or *de* before *el*, you form the contractions *al* and *del*: Voy **al** centro; Es **el** libro **del** profesor.

Masculine	
Singular	Plural
el libro	los libros
el pupitre	los pupitres
el profesor	los profesores
el lápiz	los lápices

Feminine	
Singular	Plural
la carpeta	las carpetas
la casa	las casas
la noche	las noches
la ciudad	las ciudades

Indefinite Articles

Un and *una* are indefinite articles and are the equivalent of "a" and "an" in English. *Un* is used with singular masculine nouns; *una* is used with singular feminine nouns. The plural indefinite articles are *unos* and *unas*.

Masculine	
Singular	Plural
un libro	unos libros
un baile	unos bailes

Feminine	
Singular	Plural
una revista	unas revistas
una mochila	unas mochilas

Pronouns

Subject pronouns tell who is doing the action. They replace nouns or names in a sentence. Subject pronouns are often used for emphasis or clarification: Gregorio escucha música. **Él** escucha música.

A **direct object** tells who or what receives the action of the verb. To avoid repeating a direct object noun, you can replace it with a **direct object pronoun**. Direct object pronouns have the same gender and number as the nouns they replace: ¿Cuándo compraste el libro? **Lo** compré ayer.

An **indirect object** tells to whom or for whom an action is performed. **Indirect object pronouns** are used to replace an

indirect object noun: **Les** doy dinero. (*I give money to them.*) Because *le* and *les* have more than one meaning, you can make the meaning clear, or show emphasis, by adding *a* + the corresponding name, noun, or pronoun: **Les** doy el dinero **a ellos**.

A **reflexive pronoun** is used to show that someone does an action to or for herself or himself. Each reflexive pronoun corresponds to a different subject and always agrees with the subject pronoun: Todos los días **me** ducho y **me** arreglo el pelo. You know that a verb is reflexive if its infinitive form ends with the letters *se*: *ducharse, arreglarse.*

After most prepositions, you use *mi* and *ti* for "me" and "you." The forms change with the preposition *con*: *conmigo, contigo*. For all other persons, you use subject pronouns after prepositions.

The personal *a*

When the direct object is a person, a group of people, or a pet, use the word *a* before the object. This is called the "personal *a*": Visité **a** mi abuela. Busco **a** mi perro, Capitán.

Subject Pronouns		Direct Object Pronouns		Indirect Object Pronouns		Reflexive Pronouns		Objects of Prepositions	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
yo	nosotros, nosotras	me	nos	me	nos	me	nos	(para) mí, conmigo	nosotros, nosotras
tú	vosotros, vosotras	te	os	te	os	te	os	(para) ti, contigo	vosotros, vosotras
usted (Ud.), él, ella	ustedes (Uds.), ellos, ellas	lo, la	los, las	le	les	se	se	Ud., él, ella	Uds., ellos, ellas

Adjectives

Words that describe people and things are called adjectives. In Spanish, most adjectives have both masculine and feminine forms, as well as singular and plural forms. Adjectives must agree with the nouns they describe in both gender and number. When an adjective describes a group including both masculine and feminine nouns, use the masculine plural form.

Masculine	
Singular	Plural
alto	altos
inteligente	inteligentes
trabajador	trabajadores
fácil	fáciles

Feminine	
Singular	Plural
alta	altas
inteligente	inteligentes
trabajadora	trabajadoras
fácil	fáciles

Shortened Forms of Adjectives

When placed before masculine singular nouns, some adjectives change into a shortened form.

bueno	→	buen chico
malo	→	mal día
primero	→	primer trabajo
tercero	→	tercer plato
grande	→	gran señor

One adjective, *grande*, changes to a shortened form before any singular noun: *una gran señora*, *un gran libro*.

Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives are used to tell what belongs to someone or to show relationships. Like other adjectives, possessive adjectives agree in number with the nouns that follow them.

Only *nuestro* and *vuestro* have different masculine and feminine endings. *Su* and *sus* can have many different meanings: *his*, *her*, *its*, *your*, or *their*.

The long forms of possessive adjectives are used for emphasis and come *after* the noun. They may also be used without a noun: *Esta chaqueta es tuya? Sí, es mía.*

Singular	Plural
mi	mis
tu	tus
su	sus
nuestro, -a	nuestros, -as
vuestro, -a	vuestros, -as
su	sus

Singular	Plural
mío/mía	míos/mías
tuyo/tuya	tuyos/tuyas
suyo/suya	suyos/suyas
nuestro/nuestra	nuestros/nuestras
vuestro/vuestra	vuestros/vuestras
suyo/suya	suyos/suyas

Demonstrative Adjectives

Like other adjectives, demonstrative adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns that follow them. Use *este*, *esta*, *estos*, *estas* ("this" / "these") before nouns that name people or things that are close to you. Use *ese*, *esa*, *esos*, *esas* ("that" / "those") before nouns that name people or things that are at some distance from you.

Use *aquel*, *aquella*, *aquellos*, or *aquellas* ("that [those] over there") before nouns that name people or things that are far from both you and the person to whom you are speaking.

Singular	Plural
este libro	estos libros
esta casa	estas casas
ese niño	esos niños
esa manzana	esas manzanas
aquel bolso	aquellos bolsos
aquella blusa	aquellas blusas

Interrogative Words

You use interrogative words to ask questions. When you ask a question with an interrogative word, you put the verb before the subject. All interrogative words have a written accent mark.

¿Adónde?	¿Cuándo?	¿Dónde?
¿Cómo?	¿Cuánto, -a?	¿Por qué?
¿Con quién?	¿Cuántos, -as?	¿Qué?
¿Cuál?	¿De dónde?	¿Quién?

Comparatives and Superlatives

Comparatives Use *más ... que* or *menos ... que* to compare people or things: *más interesante que ...*, *menos alta que ...*

When talking about number, use *de* instead of *que*: *Tengo más de cien monedas en mi colección.*

To compare people or things that are equal, use *tan ... como*: *tan popular como ...* *Tanto / tanta ... como* is used to say "as much as" and *tantos / tantas ... como* is used to say "as many as": *tanto dinero como ... tantas amigas*

como ... Tanto and *tanta* match the number and gender of the noun to which they refer.

Superlatives Use this pattern to express the idea of "most" or "least."

el
la + noun + *más / menos + adjective*
los
las

Es el programa de televisión más interesante.
Son los perritos más pequeños.

Several adjectives are irregular when used with comparisons and superlatives.

older	mayor
younger	menor
better	mejor
worse	peor

To say that something is "the most," "the least," "the best," or "the worst" in a group or category, use *de*.

Es la chica más seria de la clase.
Es la mejor película del festival de cine.

Affirmative and Negative Words

To make a sentence negative in Spanish, *no* usually goes in front of the verb or expression. To show that you do not like either of two choices, use *ni ... ni*.

Alguno, alguna, algunos, algunas and *ninguno, ninguna* match the number and gender of the noun to which they refer. When *alguno* and *ninguno* come before a masculine singular noun, they change to *algún* and *ningún*.

Affirmative	Negative
algo	nada
alguien	nadie
algún	ningún
alguno, -a, -os, -as	ninguno, -a
siempre	nunca
también	tampoco

Adverbs

To form an adverb in Spanish, *-mente* is added to the feminine singular form of an adjective. This *-mente* ending is equivalent to the "-ly" ending in English. If the adjective has a written accent, such as *rápida*, *fácil*, and *práctica*, the accent appears in the same place in the adverb form.

general	→	generalmente
especial	→	especialmente
fácil	→	fácilmente
feliz	→	felizmente
rápida	→	rápidamente
práctica	→	prácticamente